

reconnaissance company during the Second World War. His uncle, Lieutenant General William Jones, commanded Marine Forces in the Pacific and had a long and distinguished combat record.

On a personal note, General Jones and I served together in Vietnam during the siege of Khe Sahn. The general was twice decorated for bravery, receiving the Silver Star Medal—our Nation's third highest award for valor—as well as the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V."

For me, the general is truly "a brother of the bond"—a member of the small "band of brothers" who have served their country with courage and honor in the crucible of combat.

General Jones is a highly experienced infantry commander and staff officer—during his long and distinguished career he has served as an infantry battalion commander, Marine Expeditionary Unit commander and as the commanding general of the Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

He has led marines from the fire-swept rice paddies of Vietnam to the mountains of Northern Iraq and Turkey.

General Jones just recently completed an assignment as the Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, our former colleague Bill Cohen. In this capacity, he accompanied the Secretary around the globe in support of the defense of our Nation's vital national interests.

Many may not know this, but General Jones is also a "veteran" of the United States Senate. He served as the Marine Corps Liaison Officer to the Senate alongside another colleague—then Captain, United States Navy, JOHN MCCAIN.

Mr. President, I, again, welcome Lieutenant General Jones as the 32nd Commandant and as the newest member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He will lead one of the finest military organizations on Earth, the United States Marine Corps. He will be responsible for our Nation's premier "911" force, charged with guiding and directing our Corps of Marines into the new century and millennium.

I know I speak for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in wishing General Jones, his lovely wife Diane—as well as his family Jim Jr., Kevin, Greg, and Jennifer—our very best wishes. On June 30, 1999, he will take on the awesome responsibility of being the 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps. Semper Paratus and Godspeed, General Jones.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ERIC K. SHINSEKI

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a distinguished soldier, General Eric K. Shinseki, whose inspiring personal journey is a story that could happen only in America.

My good friend and distinguished colleague, the senior senator from Hawaii,

presented a moving tribute to General Shinseki when he formally introduced his fellow Hawaiian to the Armed Services Committee on June 8th. Senator INOUE reminded us that when the general was born on the island of Kauai in the midst of the Second World War, his Japanese heritage made him, according to the regrettable laws that existed at that time, an enemy alien. Due in large part to the heroism of noble Hawaiians like our colleague, who fought so bravely and honorably and at such great personal sacrifice with the 442d Regimental Combat Team in Europe, Japanese-Americans no longer bear the indignity that the government of their country visited upon them during that time of war. As Senator INOUE reminded us, President Roosevelt declared that Americanism is a matter of mind and heart and that it is not, and never has been, a matter of racial color. The birthright that Senator INOUE's blood purchased for these Americans enabled young Ric Shinseki to rise to the top of the military profession in this great country. And for that we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our brave and distinguished colleague.

General Shinseki began to show promise at a tender age. An outstanding student, he left the Territory of Hawaii for the first time and came east to become a high school exchange student in New Jersey.

Having broadened his horizons, he sought and secured an appointment to the United States Military Academy. While a cadet at West Point he heard a young president challenge the Nation to "ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." He listened in the Cadet Mess as General of the Army Douglas MacArthur eloquently defined the words of the Academy motto, "Duty, Honor, Country." Cadet Shinseki has never stopped answering those ringing calls to duty. He answers them still.

He graduated from the Military Academy in 1965 with a commission in the field artillery. He soon found himself en route to Vietnam and a tour of duty with the 25th Infantry Division, the "Tropic Lightning" Division. Onboard a ship crossing the Pacific a veteran non-commissioned officer taught the young lieutenant his craft. For days and days the two men drilled on the techniques of calling for and observing artillery fire. Second Lieutenant Shinseki never forgot the value of skilled and dedicated non-commissioned officers. He has been a soldier's soldier ever since.

Combat wounds cut short his tenure in Vietnam. After a long convalescence, he volunteered to return to the war, to answer the summons of the trumpet once again. While commanding a cavalry troop with the 5th Infantry Division, he received another wound, this one far more serious. For a while, his life was in jeopardy. And even after the healing had begun, there were serious questions about whether he could continue his career.

True to his nature, honoring his birthright and still answering the call to duty, Ric Shinseki fought to stay in the Army. Fortunately for us, the Army saw more than a little potential in this twice-wounded warrior, and granted his request to stay. They sent him to Duke University to get a degree in English literature so that he could return to teach at his alma mater on the banks of the Hudson. There, as a member of the West Point faculty, he could teach and mentor a new generation of officers, inspiring them with his stoic example of duty and sacrifice.

Since that time, General Shinseki has built two great legacies in the Army. First, he is a leader and trainer of soldiers. He has been a commander and operations officer in armored and mechanized formations from the 3rd of the 7th Cavalry in Europe, to my own beloved First Team, the First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, where he served as commanding general.

General Shinseki has also built a reputation as a brilliant staff officer who has helped the army to shape its force and modernize its training during tours of duty in five different positions in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. There he came to know the army as an institution, to learn the folkways of the Pentagon, and to understand the byzantine nature of this great city.

In 1997 the President and the Senate recognized the enormous potential of this soldier by promoting him to a fourth star and appointing him Commanding General of United States Army, Europe. This critical assignment was all the more important because General Shinseki was also soon to become Commanding General of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There he undertook the difficult and delicate mission of implementing the Dayton Peace Accords among the Bosnians, Croats, and Serbs, a task whose complexity has been underscored by our more recent trials in the Balkans.

Last year, General Shinseki returned home to become Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, to run the staff in the building he knows so well. He has brought a mature, steady hand to his administration of the Army Staff.

A combat veteran, a soldier's soldier, an accomplished trainer, a consummate staff officer, a respected commander, this son of Japanese immigrants who was born an enemy alien has now risen to the pinnacle of the American military profession. Wow, what a story. In a ceremony on June 22, 1999 at Fort Myer, Virginia, General Eric K. Shinseki assumed duty as the 34th Chief of Staff of the Army.

He is a visionary leader and there is no one better qualified to lead the United States Army into the next millennium. I salute his service, his sacrifice, his devotion to duty. I applaud his perseverance, his intelligence, his humility. I feel honored that the members of the Armed Services Committee

and I will have many opportunities to work with General Shinseki over the next several years as we labor to guarantee the readiness of the Armed Forces and to maintain our covenant with the men and women of the United States Army, who guarantee our own freedoms and guard our interests at home and abroad.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THOMAS. I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RURAL SATELLITE SERVICE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, rural states are particularly affected by satellite service. Telecommunications is changing the way things are done, providing more and more of our services through satellites. Yet we have difficulty with people who live in low-density areas, people who live in the country, receiving their local satellite service.

This is a common problem in a low-density State such as Wyoming, where we have fewer people, where we have more rural areas. Many issues we work on have a unique impact on people who live in rural areas. The reregulation of electricity, for example, has a different impact in Wyoming than it does in Pennsylvania. That is true, also, with the delivery of health care services.

It is important, when we deal with nationwide issues, that we also take some time to give special attention to the differences that exist among consumers in the country. That is particularly true with TV. Technology and satellite TV have allowed TV services to be delivered in places it could never be delivered before. However, there are many rural people who cannot receive over the air television signals. That is the case in Wyoming.

Technology and satellite TV are great because they often provide people with more services. Indeed, it does. But it is difficult to provide local TV, local news, and local emergency signals that are given by the local stations. When a satellite company cannot do that, customers get their NBC broadcast in Rawlins, WY, they receive it from Chicago. That is a problem in terms of being able to have those local services available to consumers.

It is important, No. 1, we maintain local broadcast markets. It is important, as well, that people who live in that vicinity have the opportunity to see local news, to hear about local ac-

tivities, to participate locally. The problem is, how do you provide satellite service and at the same time provide local news and local activities, as well?

This week, the Senate-House conference will be meeting regarding the Satellite Home Viewers Improvement Act. Hopefully, something will come out of that. This is legislation which will enable more customers to receive broadcast network television. The question is, of course, who can adequately receive local service from their own antenna and who can receive these local broadcasts through a satellite provider.

I had meetings in Wyoming this week. We only have two areas in Wyoming where the local TV has a designated area; the others do not. There are 15 States that do not have local-to-local service at all. When people up for satellite TV and they want the national broadcast—which is done locally, if you can receive that from an antenna—viewers are blocked from receiving it on the satellite.

The difficulty is determining the strength of the signal that comes to that antenna. There is a great difference of view about that. Frankly, it is very uncertain who makes that determination.

The first issue is determining the strength of the signal. You have to find out if that signal is strong enough so you qualify to get it over your antenna, or have a technician show that it isn't.

That is the difference of view. There needs to be a third party who says, whether you have adequate signal strength. Some viewers are behind a mountain or in a valley and can't get it. That is part of the problem.

Another problem is considering the local market. Over 25 percent of the viewers in Wyoming receive their TV from satellites. This is the third highest percentage, I believe, in the United States. That is not a huge number of people, but it is a very high percentage of people.

Without satellite access of course, the customers have no TV at all. Under the current situation, the TV they do get often comes from distant network stations.

There are two problems. One is that there has been a moratorium so these viewers could continue to get their services. That moratorium is scheduled to expire at the end of this month for folks in Grade A. In the Grade B contour network service expires at the end of the year; and there is nothing to be done in the interim. We need to deal with the immediacy of the problem—hopefully give customers another moratorium to continue network service. Second, we need to decide how we can get local-to-local coverage, how we can get the local TV station carried in a "must carry" proposition.

There are two difficulties. One, I am told—and I am not completely persuaded—that there is a lack of capacity

on the satellites. In order to do that, additional satellites must be launched to carry all the local stations so people can get local broadcasts. Of course, that runs into the third issue—money.

I know the folks in Kansas would be just as excited about having TV coverage as the folks in Wyoming; and I am sure the Presiding Officer would be instrumental in making this happen.

In summary, I think many individuals would like to use satellites for their TV viewing. People in the country also want to have their local station available to them. They do not want to be blocked from receiving NBC or CBS because they are within the area that their local station carries, despite the fact they can't get it well on their own TV.

This is a problem that can have a happy resolution. Ideally, everyone could receive TV and have a good picture. Ideally, everyone could view their local station. We will work toward this end. I hope the conference committee meeting now can help find a way to provide a remedy for the short term and then set up an efficient system as we look to the future.

We have written a letter to the committee—I think there are 24 signatures on this letter—urging they set up a commission to determine how this might be done to resolve the question in the long term. I am optimistic that can be done.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, June 11, 1999.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,

Chairman,

The Honorable ERNEST F. HOLLINGS,

Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,

Chairman,

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY,

Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR COLLEAGUES: We are writing today to request your support for efforts to ensure local service for small television markets during conference committee deliberation of comprehensive satellite legislation.

While we support provisions in this legislation that will allow the satellite retransmission of local television signals back into local markets ("local into local"), we are concerned that satellite providers are not expected to provide local service to the 19 million U.S. households in the smallest 150 rural and less populated markets. We believe that all Americans should receive the benefits of educational, informational and entertainment programming resulting from the reception of local signals.

We are particularly concerned that at least 15 states, including many of our own, do not have a single television market which will receive local television retransmission. Therefore, disagreements will continue over importation of distant network signals, and worse, rural America will be deprived of important communications access.